The Missing Label

Notice how a setting, characters, and connected events build a story.

4.W.3.a "Establish a situation and/or setting; introduce a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the words that tell when and where the story begins, circle the first "I" and the first "Nia," and number three events that lead from the problem to its solution.

The Label Under the Shed

1. On Saturday morning, Nia and I worked in the neighborhood garden behind the fire station. We had planted three rows of seeds and set a paper label beside each one. While Nia filled the watering can, a sharp gust lifted the labels from the soil. Two landed near my feet, but the third slid under the wooden shed.

2. I knelt by the shed and reached into the dark gap, but my arm was too short. Nia handed me a garden rake. I pulled it gently across the dirt, hoping to catch the label. Instead, the rake pushed it farther back. Without that label, we might forget which row held the carrot seeds. Nia studied the gap, then hurried to our supply bucket.

3. She came back with a long ruler and a strip of tape. Nia wrapped the tape around the ruler's tip, sticky side out. I slid the ruler under the shed and pressed it against the paper. The label stuck, and I drew it toward us. We put all three labels back beside the rows and held them down with small stones.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which details at the start tell you when and where the story happens?

2. Who tells the story, and who works with the narrator?

3. What happens first that gives the characters a problem to solve?

4. How does the failed rake attempt lead to Nia's next action?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five- or six-sentence scene set somewhere other than a garden. Show when and where it happens, introduce a narrator or character, and tell three connected events in an order that makes sense.

ANSWER KEY

The Missing Label

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the words that tell when and where the story begins, circle the first "I" and the first "Nia," and number three events that lead from the problem to its solution. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which details at the start tell you when and where the story happens?	**It begins on Saturday morning in the neighborhood garden behind the fire station.**
2	Who tells the story, and who works with the narrator?	**The gardener who says "I" tells the story, and Nia works with the narrator.**
3	What happens first that gives the characters a problem to solve?	**A gust blows the seed labels away, and one slides under the shed.**
4	How does the failed rake attempt lead to Nia's next action?	**The rake pushes the label farther under the shed, so Nia gets a ruler and tape to reach it.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On Tuesday at lunch, I sat beside my friend Eli in the school cafeteria. Eli bumped his cup, and water spilled across our table. I moved our sandwiches away before they got wet. Eli brought paper towels while I told the lunch helper about the spill. Together, we dried the table and threw away the soggy towels. Then we sat down and finished our lunch.

For the marking job, accept the gust, the failed rake attempt, and the tape-and-ruler rescue as the three numbered events. For the original scene, look for a clear time and place, an introduced narrator or character, and connected events in a sensible order.